



**Carlisle
United
Church**

Newsletter



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Fall 2026

200th Anniversary Weekend for Carlisle United Church

There is so much to celebrate!

On **Saturday September 26** from 11 to 1, we are thrilled to share our 200th Anniversary with our community, and host a big, fun-for-all-ages backyard party.

Community is, and has always been, our focus... our motto is "Pray Love Serve". We've invited many local community groups to share displays about their services, initiatives and needs. Community participants will include Flamborough Food Bank, Scouting, Guiding, Hamilton Public Library, Flamborough Animal Adoptions, Senior Cat Rescue, Carlisle Optimist, Flamborough Connects, Flamborough Archives, and the Jonathan Brown Foundation (working towards a community pickleball court project). Hamilton Fire Department plans to join, with a fire truck offering their HFD Education Program (as long as there isn't emergency response need elsewhere). And weather permitting, there will be a display of cool hobby cars.

Fun-for-all-ages includes music, simple treats and backyard games on the grass. Everyone can enjoy an educational 'Historic Discovery Challenge', sharing Carlisle history and church

spaces including our beautiful stained-glass windows. Volunteers will be offering an open house of the Flamborough Food Bank. There will be draw prizes, with tickets being given for participation in events.

There is no admission charge. Flamborough Foodbank has challenged us to raise "200 cans for 200 years", so please bring cans of baked beans for our Bean Mountain.

Event is rain or shine with most activities shifting indoors if rain is forecast.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbours.

On **Sunday September 27** at 10:00 am, we will be holding a special Sunday worship service. This will feature a special video about the history of our faith community in Carlisle entitled "Carlisle United Church 1826-2026 ~ Some Voices from Our History". Invitations have been sent and we are hoping to re-connect with many dear friends.



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Beethoven: The Man, the Mind, the Music

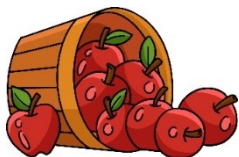
Come join us for a special music event celebrating the life, psychology and works of this Classical giant, to be held **Sunday October 4** at 3pm in the Carlisle sanctuary.

We will welcome Dr. Deborah Henry (narration, organ) as she shares fascinating stories about Beethoven with us, alongside instrumentalists Dr. Heather Olaveson (piano), Klaudia Thibault (violin) and young pianist Filip Thibault.

We are excited to perform some of your very favourite Beethoven compositions and introduce you to new favourites! A special guest known to many Carlisle and Kilbride members will perform the role of "The Voice of Beethoven". Grab your friends and neighbours and come on out **October 4**. Refreshments and baked treats will be provided. Admission by freewill donation to the church. All are welcome.

Heather Olaveson

Special thanks to Charkanai Apple Orchard for donating two bushels of apples for the Christmas Bazaar pies and two bushels for the Anniversary event. Please support them! They are located at 114 Concession 8 East and welcome "pick your own" customers. <https://charkanai.com/>



Shred that Stuff!

We are again offering the service of secure document shredding with the pros from Papersavers. This year's event is scheduled for **Saturday October 17** from **10 am to 1 pm**. Just drive into the Carlisle Church parking lot and we will unload from your vehicle into the shredding truck.

You may bring any kind of confidential paperwork, such as family documents, receipts and tax returns, to be disposed of confidentially. Photographs, magazines and cardboard are also accepted.

Prices are unchanged from last year, with a suggested donation of \$5 for a grocery bag and \$10 for a banker's box. Additional donations are greatly appreciated for this fund-raiser. Please tell your friends and neighbours. And come early, before the truck fills up!



A lot of fun was had at last year's Chili Cook-Off. Now looking for competitors for this year's event!

Chili Cook-Off Fun Event

The second annual Chili Cook-Off is back by popular demand! Mark your calendars for **Saturday November 28**, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, at Carlisle United Church.

Enjoy delicious homemade chili and vote for your favourite, all for a good cause. We're now actively looking for chili cook-off contestants who will prepare and serve their best recipe at the event. Six to eight contestants will be ideal.

The competition was fierce last year, and there were a large number of "judges" (tasters). Come and enjoy music, lots of laughter and fun! Contact any of the organizing committee to enter your chili: Andrea McRae, Bob Moulder or Mark Stanski.

Trustees Report

This Spring/Summer, the Trustees reviewed and updated the Cemetery bylaws.

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) requires a 3-step notification process before their approval:

1. Notice of the bylaw changes must be posted on the cemetery entrance gate for four weeks.
 2. Notice of the revised bylaws must be advertised in a local publication (Flamborough Today e-publication).
 3. All cemetery suppliers and local funeral homes must receive a copy of the revised bylaws.
- These steps have been completed and proof thereof is now ready to be submitted to the BAO.

In the previous newsletter, mention was made of the intent to install two motion sensor solar lights in the columbarium area. This task has been completed.

Andy Tarrant, Trustees Chair



Columbarium garden at night, lit by one of the new motion-sensitive solar lights. Thanks to trustees Murray Alderson and Dave Binnie for their efforts in procurement and installation. (Photo courtesy of Dave Binnie)

Property

There have been a number of property initiatives over the past few months:

- Security upgrades
 - Increased surveillance cameras

- Improved lighting in the Columbarium area
- Food Bank door replacement
- Electronic File Security
 - Back up cloud-based program for the office computer
- Light fixture in the washroom replaced with an L.E.D. fixture
- Rental of part of the field to a commercial flower organization
- Joint initiative with the Jonathan Brown Foundation for the construction of a pickleball court

Of particular note is the purchase and installation of a “hearing assist” system for the sanctuary.

We would also like to acknowledge the work of Dennis Sinclair and Iain McRae. Dennis has spent many hours

filling holes in the parking lot as well as modifying the lot to improve drainage. Ian, “behind the scenes”, has replaced light fixtures as well as completing many repairs around the church. A huge, heartfelt ‘thank you’ to Dennis and Ian!

Bob Moulder



Prayer Circle

In connection with our 200th anniversary celebration, we are noting the longevity of our prayer circle gatherings. It seems that our group started meeting together in 2011, and it has been a privilege for us to offer prayer support to our friends, our community and our world for the past fifteen years.

All are welcome to join us as we continue to grow in our own faith and to uphold others before our loving God. Fall meeting dates are: Tuesday October 13, Monday November 9, Monday December 14, all at 12:45 pm.

Joan Eagle

UCW & Friends

Summer has ended. Cool is in the air and fall is upon us. The United Church Women and Friends are already in full swing, planning for the "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar on **Saturday November 21**. Please mark your calendar!

Our meetings will be every Wednesday morning at the church from 9:00am to 11:30am. Please invite friends to come out, as we are grateful for helping hands.

The apple peeling bee was a big success, thanks to several extra helpers. Charkanai Apple Orchard kindly donated the apples. There were a lot of laughter and we enjoyed social time after making 30 pies. A BIG 'thank you' to all who helped with the apple pies.

Bumbleberry, pecan and strawberry/rhubarb pies are next in the making. Cherries were in very short supply this year, as pollination was poor. Fortunately, after great searching we have located some, and yes, we will have cherry pies for the bazaar after all!

We will be in need of many volunteers again, especially for the cabbage roll making bees on **October 7, 8, 14, 15, and 21**. Cabbage rolls are one of our best-sellers and we make hundreds. Please help with these if you are able.

Come and learn to make quiche, butter tarts and cookie mixes (popular recipes of the past) on Wednesdays in November.

As we approach that special date, **Saturday November 21**, we often have congregants and our local friends offer baking (cookies, squares, butter tarts and your favourite sweets) to sell on our Bake Sale tables. Donations are welcome on the Thursday and Friday before. Please let the church office know that you will be bringing something.

Gale is working on the crafts, and is in need of some help to finish knitted goods started by Judy. If you are able to offer help with this,

please come out on Wednesday morning and join her at the corner table. We are also happy to accept any donated crafts for the sales tables.

We will again be holding a Local Vender and Artisan sale, also on **Saturday November 21** from 10 to 2. Tables are available now. Call Gale Bale to reserve a table (905-407-4814).

Check our full schedule of activities on the church website (Events Calendar) or call Mary at 905-689-8126.

Mary Gilbert



Getting ready for the Christmas Bazaar. Top photo: the Apple Peeling team having a lot of fun (Marie, Trudy, Erika, Susan, Audrey). Bottom photo, the Pie Making team in action (Eleanor, Mary, Lynda, Nan, Donna).



Transition Team Update

Since our summer update, the Transition Team, under the leadership of Rev. Gayle, has been working in parallel with leaders of the many committees and programs planned for the summer and early fall to support or enhance the community participation experience. These include:

Welcoming messages on our electronic church sign. We hope these will intrigue and delight passers by. Thank you to the Communications team.

Analyzing responses to the community questionnaire. Thank you to the 15 respondents who highlighted our perceived strengths, challenges and provided solutions.

Creating a welcoming invitation to the 200th Anniversary celebrations. The team crafted an encouraging and welcoming message to be sent to the wider community inviting all, especially members who may be lapsed or been absent for some time, to come and celebrate this extraordinary milestone with us.

Creating the Church History Tree and researching historical dates and events.

The tree contains the decades since our church had its genesis in 1826 and the significant events that shaped our history to the present day. The tree is currently located in the Gathering room, and all are invited to place a leaf containing the date they first came to Carlisle United Church and another leaf containing the gift(s) they feel they received by belonging.

Forum of the Future September 13. The team assisted Rev. Gayle to record the responses of the 31 attendees divided into focus groups. Attendees responded to three questions, namely:

- What gifts or strengths have you received from being part of this community of faith?
- What is your preferred future for our church? Why?
- What do we need to get from here to there?

Rev. Gayle provided the team with an excellent summary of the responses. The team is currently analyzing and categorizing them to determine patterns, similarities or omissions in order to help in determining our future direction.

Looking Forward. The transition process is expected to take about 18 months and will contain several stages. It may involve changes in direction and taking paths not visualized at present. Some steps in this process involve:

- Learning from our history, what we did well and what we should keep.
- Discerning what our congregation and the wider community wants.
- Determining if we can meet that need alone or in partnership.
- Remembering that “change is of God and therefore is good”.

The extraordinary number of community events on our church calendar for the next few months is a clear indication of the efforts being made to appeal to and reach the wider community, which could result in some growth. There are several more and exciting initiatives possible for the new year. Your input is essential to the success of all our undertakings and we joyfully welcome your thoughts and ideas.

As we continue on this journey of research and discernment together, we are grateful for your prayers.

Transition Team

Rev. Gayle MacDonald, Andrea McRae, Erin McBryde, Mark Stanski, Catherine Swatten

Invitation to SING!

Need a little more music in your life? Consider joining Carlisle's "small but mighty" choir for Thursday evening practices at 7-8:30pm. Perks of the gig: making beautiful noise with good friends and special seating Sunday mornings. Come check out what the view is like facing southwest in the sanctuary!



From the Minister's Desk: Discerning the Way Forward

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

Proverbs 29:18 (The Message)

As we closed the "Forum on the Future" on September 13, I decided to write something about discernment in this issue of the *Newsletter*. Perhaps we are not yet in an obvious discernment process, but in many ways, we are always in discernment, i.e., listening for where God is leading us.

Discernment – what it is. Let me begin by telling you what discernment is not.

"It is not... consensus decision-making; [it is] not a political process; [it is] not a logical, rational, ordered discipline that leads deductively to inescapable conclusions; [it is] not to be equated with decision-making...

Discernment is to see the movement of God. It is a process of uncovering the decision – not of making one." (Roy M. Oswald & Robert E. Friedrich Jr., *Discerning Your Congregation's Future: A Strategic and Spiritual Approach*. The Alban Institute: 1998, p. 6)

Discernment is a means by which we allow our deep, subconscious prayers to surface. Discernment always includes prayer and intentionally takes time to listen carefully for the movement of the Spirit.

Individual discernment is "listening towards" or paying attention to four things: God, ourselves, others and the world (video study: *Praying in the Midst of Life*, week 3, Ron del Bene). As we listen, we carefully and prayerfully consider what we may be "hearing" or sensing. In his video, Del Bene lists the principles for discernment as:

- Do discernment in an atmosphere of prayer.
- Look to Scripture for guidance [i.e., what verse or story of Scripture seems to speak to you personally].
- Discernment is done over a period of time; discernment needs time to reflect on

choices and time to listen [towards God, ourselves, others and the world.

- Seek advice of others when doing discernment.
- Make a commitment to the discerned decision [i.e., if you carefully and prayerfully discern or uncover a decision, then commit to it and see what happens].
- Joy and peace. Sometimes just the act of deciding brings a sense of joy and peace, and sometimes not. Sometimes the peace with the decision does not happen until the first steps to enact the decision are made.

The idea that discernment is "not a logical, rational, ordered discipline that leads deductively to inescapable conclusions" is difficult to understand. Fact-gathering and deductive reasoning still have a place, but we need to surrender to the movement of the Spirit and the possibility that there may yet be surprises we have not considered. The purpose of discernment is not to find the right or wrong answer, or to help us find the right or wrong way to go; for there may be more than one right or wrong answer or way to go. The purpose of discernment is to find the most faithful answer, to choose the most faithful way.

Let us pray together and apart with open minds and open hearts. Let us speak the truth in love to one another. Let us trust that when we cannot see very far ahead, God can see and we need only take one step at a time. A friend of mine once likened the faith journey when things seem uncertain to driving her old truck home on a dark, bumpy, gravel road. You don't know what lies beyond the beams of your headlights, so you follow the path laid out by those beams of light at a speed that is safe, and trust that you will arrive safely. It is enough.

Rev. Gayle



Pumpkin, Squash, Gourd
Pop-up Sale
Kilbride United Church
Saturday October 3

Mark Your Calendar



- **Wednesdays~** United Church Women meet weekly at 9 am for Bazaar prep
- **Thurs. Sept. 24** ~ Positive Aging Series: Brain Health, Kilbride Church, 1:30pm
- **Saturday Sept. 26** ~ Carlisle 200th Anniversary Community event, 11 to 1
- **Sunday Sept. 27** ~ Carlisle 200th Anniversary joint service, 10am
- **Thurs. October 1** ~ Positive Aging Series: Older Adult Nutrition, Kilbride Church, 1:30pm
- **Sunday October 4** ~ World Communion Day at both Carlisle and Kilbride
- **Sunday October 4** ~ Beethoven concert with guest musicians, 3pm
- **Wed. & Thurs. October 7 & 8** ~ UCW cabbage roll bee, helpers needed
- **Thurs. October 8** ~ Positive Aging Series: Putting It All Together, Kilbride Church, 1:30pm
- **Sunday Oct. 11** ~ Thanksgiving service
- **Tuesday October 13** ~ Prayer Circle 12:45
- **Wed. & Thurs. October 14 & 15** ~ UCW cabbage roll bee, helpers needed
- **Saturday October 17** ~ Paper Shredding event, 10 to 1
- **Sunday October 18** ~ Anniversary of Kilbride United Church, joint service at 10 am in Kilbride
- **Wed. October 21** ~ UCW cabbage roll bee, helpers needed
- **Monday November 9** ~ Prayer Circle 12:45
- **Saturday November 21** ~ Carlisle "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar, 10 to 2
- **Saturday November 21** ~ Local artisan and vendor sale, 10 to 2
- **Saturday November 21** ~ Sanctuary open house and Treasure Sale, 10 to 2
- **Wed. November 25** ~ UCW wrap-up meeting and pot luck lunch
- **Saturday November 28** ~ Chili Cook-off Contest, 11 to 1
- **Sunday December 6** ~ Cocoa and Carols, 3pm
- **Monday December 14** ~ Prayer Circle 12:45

Finance Report

Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers, we had several successful fundraising events so far this year. The various events generated revenue of \$28,000, with a net profit of approximately \$15,000.

Financial results to the end of August show Envelope and PAR Givings are down 9% from last year to \$41,607. Our total year budget is \$86,500. Mission & Service donations are also down 9%. Rental income is \$400 higher. Migrant Workers Ministry: we had donations of \$320 and expenses were \$223. Salaries and Benefits are \$3,200 greater than last year, but in line with budget. Operating expenses were comparable to last year and in line with budget except for hydro costs which are much higher. The deficit is \$17,000, which is about \$3,000 less than last year.

Our investments in the Manse and Planned Gift Funds have performed well so far this year.

There are a few projects the Finance Committee has been working on:

- 1) The Ontario Anti-Hate and Prevention \$7,500 grant was spent on a new food bank entrance door and installing solar motion sensor lights in the Columbaria area of the cemetery.
- 2) We have been involved in reviewing the Pickleball Court project proposal, including construction quotes and permits.
- 3) We are analyzing hydro consumption using the new hydro meter on the Food Bank line.
- 4) We have entered into a rental agreement with Jurassic Petal, a local business growing flowers and plants, to rent ½ acre of our open field. It's not a lot of rent, but makes valuable use of a portion of our property.

Our Finance Committee is hopeful that we can reach our annual Givings budget – \$40,000 to go!

Barry Gilbert, Treasurer

Flamborough Foodbank Update

We are grateful to share an update with the Carlisle United Church community after a bustling summer at the Flamborough Foodbank. This season has been busier than usual, with family visits increasing by more than 10 each week. Our local farms and neighbours met this growing need with overwhelming generosity, and their harvest bounty allowed us to provide fresh, nutritious food to every family who came through our doors.



Jim Leamen and volunteer Karyn with a mountain of backpacks and school supplies following the 'Back to School' drive. (Photo courtesy of Jacelyn)

A highlight of the summer was our 'Back to School Program', where we supported 54 families and 117 children with the supplies and nourishment they need to start the school year strong. We could not have done this without the support of caring partners like you. We also want to extend a special thank you to Rev. Gayle for her thoughtful donation of gluten-free bread, which our families really enjoyed.

Looking ahead, we are excited to join in the Carlisle United Church 200th Anniversary

Celebration on **September 26**. We deeply appreciate the congregation's efforts to collect 200 cans of baked beans for the food bank as part of this incredible milestone event. Thank you, Carlisle United Church, for your ongoing partnership, generosity and compassion. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of many in our community.

Jim Leamen

Wesley Ministries

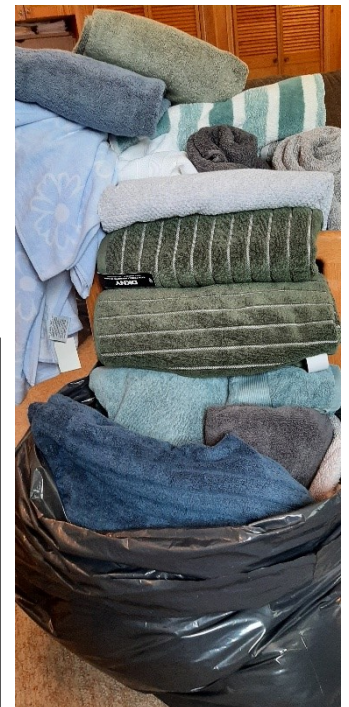
Your Outreach generosity to Wesley, and specifically to "Case for Kids" in June, is truly appreciated. My tax receipt arrived in late July; hopefully yours did as well. If not, please let me know.

The semi-annual Wesley meeting on **October 3** will bring representatives from United Churches all over our area together to share a time of fellowship and updates. Rashid Afif and his staff are committed to the task of helping those in need. Their positive attitude is infectious, as they share stories of clients who are in their care.

Their Christmas/Holiday requests will be on the agenda. As you know, the initiatives have evolved over the last 25 years to better respect the needs of the recipients. I am looking forward to sharing highlights of the meeting with you.

Lynn Gladstone

Last year, we collected bath sheets for Wesley and migrant workers (right). Lynn will let us know later in October what is most needed for this year. Thanks, Lynn, for leading this initiative.



Migrant Workers' Outreach

Selfless giving, thoughtful donating, sacrificing of time and family life, promises faithfully kept, all that we are called to be as Christians, is embodied in our now almost 20-year tradition of offering hospitality to our local migrant workers. Our June 28th event will be remembered as one of the most successful ever, as our Gathering Room was filled to capacity with the sounds of our guests enjoying a few hours of fellowship and good food in the company of people who care about them.

In answer to your prayers, we were blessed with a comfortably cool day. Our diligently assembled guest list of 59 evolved into 83, as word of our legendary hospitality spread among the farming communities. Thanks and admiration go to the incredible volunteers in the kitchen who performed another miracle of the loaves and fishes so that all were well fed.

My heartfelt thanks to all who donated casseroles, salads, cookies, squares, drinks, gift cards, cash, clothing, bicycles and more. We were blessed with the translation skills of Sam, from the Village Barber shop who doubled as a very charming MC. Several of our guests responded to the invitation to entertain us with a song. We even had an

original composition and a rousing rendition of La Bamba. Throughout the evening, we witnessed several touching tales unfold such as the tearful gratitude of those who won bicycles and a special connection made with our Jamaican guests. We are grateful to four members from Migrant Matters Flamborough who were a huge help and were impressed by how much fun our guests were having. Our Kilbride partners and an individual member graciously supported the event with generous donations.

Our clothing store was again popular, and the household linens were a hit. No matter the size of your donation, every item helped to ease the often-difficult lives of these heroic people. Once again, *Thank You* seems inadequate but thank you for all the extraordinary giving and to Lynn, Andrea and Erin for their faithful support in the planning and organizing.

In these days of looking deeply into our church history and discerning our future, we can be proud that this outreach continues to define our congregation as a caring, welcoming one with a huge heart, despite growing smaller in numbers. May our path to the future be shaped and illuminated by this knowledge.

Catherine Swatten



It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of our guests at the Migrant Workers welcome dinner in June. More photos available at <https://www.carlisleuc.ca/migrant-workers-dinners>.

Super-Heroes

Earlier this year I saw a sign outside a church with the following message: "Not all super-heroes wear capes." While I thought that it was an interesting idea, I didn't give it much further thought until I saw it in action at the Migrant Worker dinner in June.

This dinner is generally a challenge because Catherine is never really certain how many of the invitees will actually be able to attend. As a result, it is difficult to decide how much seating and how much food will be needed.

At this event there was a large turnout and I could see that the ladies were being creative in ensuring that all were fed. As the dinner portion of the event was winding down and there was not much left, three or four more workers appeared. It would be understandable if the greeters at the door said "We're sorry, but you're too late." Instead, the workers were greeted with words of welcome. People found places for the men and provided a cooling drink. The ladies serving also welcomed the men with smiles. And somehow, they found enough food to feed everyone!

Not all super-heroes wear capes.
Some of them wear aprons.

Bob Moulder



The Alzheimer's Society will be presenting a free talk on understanding dementia

Sunday October 25

Please register for a seat at

kilbrideunited@gmail.com

VBC: Snowball Mountain Challenge

For a week this past July, the church was "frosted" with cool decorations for our "Snowball Mountain Challenge" Vacation Bible Camp, and filled with 26 campers, 13 youth volunteers and 9 church leaders. After the very successful week, the decorations and activities were soon packed away, but all were filled by the memories of smiles, laughter, dancing, singing and fun stories.



Sincere thanks to all who helped to make this such a special week. Together, campers and leaders raised \$198.95 to donate to Wesley Ministries in support of their children, youth and family services. Spirits filled, we look forward to new community events.

Erin McBryde



One of the Vacation Bible Camp activities in the Sanctuary. (Photo courtesy of Erin McBryde)